

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1-16 are pending in the current application. In the Office Action dated January 25, 2007, the Examiner objected to the drawings. Further, claims 1-3 and 12-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,067,502 ("Hayashida"). Further, claims 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayashida in view of information in the background of the current application. In this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 14. Applicant respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the drawings and rejections to the claims.

II. Drawings

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings, asserting that the drawings do not show two different windows in one representation such that a driver would see both Figures 2A and 2B in one display. Applicant respectfully disagrees and submit that a driver should not see both Figures 2A and 2B in one display. A driver should see two different windows as shown in Figure 2C. The image of Figure 2C includes the map of Figure 2B (labeled 50) that has been taken from the detailed map of Figure 2A, surrounded by a simplified map that has been extracted from the detailed map of Figure 2A. Applicant respectfully request reconsideration.

III. Hayashida Does Not Render Independent Claim 1 Unpatentable

Independent claim 1 recites an image combining unit operable to display a map inside a window and a simple image of a main road outside the window on a monitor screen. Hayashida fails to disclose at least this element.

As admitted by the Examiner, Hayashida teaches displaying two windows next to each other in one display. There seems to be no dispute that Hayashida does not teach displaying a map inside a window and displaying a simple image of a main road outside the window. However, the Examiner asserts that it would be obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to alter the two windows of Hayashida to display a map inside a window and display a simple image of a main road outside the window. Further, the

Examiner asserts the one skilled in the art would be motivated to alter Hayashida to display a map inside a window and display a simple image of a main road outside the window because “a driver always wants to know where he is, and what would be next.” Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As stated in the present application, two-window displays cause many problems. For example, in two-window displays, information such as roads, characters, landmarks, and polygons are displayed on both the detailed map and the wide-area map. Therefore, information may inefficiently be displayed twice on both screens which hinders a user from grasping additional information. Further, it may be difficult for a user to check the correspondence between maps of the two-window displays due to changing viewpoints and differences in aspect ratios. Displaying a map inside a window and displaying a simple image of a main road outside the window addresses these problems by presenting information in a way easily grasped by a driver that reduces the amount of unimportant information presented to the driver. Applicant submits that an image combining unit operable to display a map inside a window and a simple image of a main road outside the window on a monitor screen is not obvious in view of Hayashida. Moreover, Applicant submits that “a driver always wants to know where he is, and what would be next” is not motivation for changing a principle operation of Hayashida of displaying two windows next to each other in a display into creating an image combining unit operable to display a map inside a window and simple image of a main road outside the window on a monitor screen.

Because Hayashida fails to teach an image combining unit operable to display a map inside a window and a simple image of a main road outside the window on a monitor screen, Hayashida necessarily does not render independent claim 1, or any claim that depends on claim 1, unpatentable.

IV. Hayashida Does Not Render Independent Claim 12 Unpatentable

Independent claim 12 recites a window portion provided at a predetermined position on a monitor screen operable to display a map image generated in a designated scale, and a simple image portion of the monitor screen external to the window portion operable to display a simple map image of a main road extending

outside the window. As discussed above, Hayashida fails to teach at least these elements. For at least this reason, Hayashida necessarily does not render independent claim 12, or any claim that depends on claim 12, unpatentable.

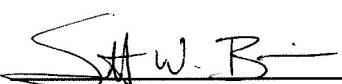
V. The Proposed Combination Does Not Render Claim 14 Unpatentable

Amended independent claim 14 recites displaying simplified map data outside a predetermined portion of a monitor screen. As discussed above, Hayashida teaches displaying two windows next to each other in a display and does not teach displaying simplified map data outside a predetermined portion of a monitor screen. The background of the current application also fails to teach this element. For at least this reason, the proposed combination of Hayashida and the background of the current application necessarily cannot render independent claim 14, or any claim that depends on claim 14, unpatentable.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the forgoing Amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition of allowance. If there are any questions concerning this Amendment, the Examiner is asked to phone the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,



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